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PROCEEDINGS OF STATISTICAL SOCIETIES.

STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

Second Ordinary Meeting, Monday, 17th December, 1838.

G. R. PORTER, Esq. F.R.S., in the Chair.

AFTER the usual routine of business, a Report was read upon the Statistics of Crime at Preston during the year 1837-38, by the Rev. John Clay, Chaplain to the Preston House of Correction. The length of this paper renders it necessary that it should appear in a future number. At the conclusion, it was stated that this gentleman has adopted the form of Registry for Criminal Offenders prepared by a Committee of this Society, and published in the Journal at p. 174.

The following Candidates were balloted for, and elected Fellows of the Society :—

Adams, James John, Esq., Finsbury-square.
 Alston, John, Esq., Glasgow.
 Booth, Abraham, Newcastle-street, Strand.
 Cargill, William, Esq., Newcastle.
 Carr, Ralph, Esq., Heddeley, Northumberland.
 Charlton, W. H., Esq., Hesleyside, Northumberland.
 Colquhoun, J. C., Esq., M.P.
 Dickenson, Rev. W., George-street.
 Dillon, J., Esq., Fore-street.
 Dunlop, Hon. H., Lord Provost of Glasgow.
 Finch, Francis, Esq., M.P.
 Griffith, Richard, Esq., Dublin.
 Hankey, Frederick, Esq., Lower Berkeley-street.

Hindmarsh, L. Esq., Alnwick.
 Jellicoe, Charles, Esq., Old Jewry.
 Keyser, Henry, Esq., Doughty-street.
 Nicholl, A., Esq., Newcastle.
 Paul, H. Baillie, Glasgow.
 Smith, F. G., Esq., Scottish Assurance Company.
 Spiller, J. R. Esq., Director of Northamptonshire Banking Company.
 Tancred, Thomas, Esq., West Cowes.
 Tulloch, J., Director of the Guardian Assurance Company.
 Wallace, R., Esq., Carshalton.
 Walsam, Sir J., Bart, Knill-court.
 Wansey, F. S. A., Esq., Riches-court.
 Wright, Rev. G., Trinity-square.
 Woolhouse, W. S. B., Esq., National Loan Company.
 Wyld, James, Esq., Charing Cross.

The following Gentlemen were proposed as Candidates for admission into the Society.

Greg, W. R., Esq., Manchester. | Rous, Hon. and Rev. Thomas.

The Council announced that they had appointed as Corresponding Members :—

Adam, William, Esq., of Calcutta. | Jones, the Rev. H. L., of Paris.

And recommended as Foreign Members, to be balloted for in January :—

Professor Bache. | Colonel Forsell.
 Professor Balbi. | M. Moreau de Jonnés.

Adjourned to the 21st of January.

STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF MANCHESTER,

Fifth Annual Report, October, 1838.

THE Annual Meeting of the Society was held at Mr. Langton's, in October, 1837, when officers for the ensuing session were appointed. Mr. Jas. Heywood read a report of the proceedings of the Statistical Section of the British Association, at Liverpool. Mr. William Greg, on behalf of the executive committee, delivered a memorandum of statistical desiderata, to which the attention of the Society should be directed during the session. Mr. William M'Connel presented a report, shewing the probable annual consumption of butchers' meat in Manchester.

At subsequent meetings during the session the following members made communications to the Society, viz.—

Mr. Samuel Greg, on Criminal Statistics; Mr. Meadows, on the Quantity of Coal brought into Manchester, in 1834; Mr. Samuel Greg, on Medical Statistics; Mr. Langton, on the Attendance at Churches and Chapels in York, obtained in 1836-7, by the Society's agent; Mr. James Heywood, Particulars of 175 families, living in Miles Platting, relative to their Occupations, Religion, Education, and Domestic Comforts—(See *Journal*, p. 34); Mr. W. R. Greg, on National Education; Mr. P. M. James, on the Past and Present Numbers of the Aborigines in the British Colonies.

At the sixth meeting, a printed collection of miscellaneous reports of the Society was laid upon the table. A committee had been appointed early in the session, to enquire into the state of education of the population of the townships of Pendleton, and a preliminary report was made by this committee.* At the last meeting of the Society the executive committee was empowered to take measures for carrying on an enquiry into the state of education in some strictly agricultural district:† a committee was appointed, to report on the best mode of obtaining a complete statistical return of crime in Manchester, on the various points of information which such a return ought to embrace, and how far such a return may be obtained from existing documents. At the request of the Society, Mr. Samuel Greg undertook to prepare a report of his enquiry into the state of education in Macclesfield.

STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF BRISTOL.

THE Annual General Meeting of the above Society was held on Friday, the 16th November.

Dr. Prichard, one of the Vice-Presidents, having been called to the chair, the Rev. J. E. Bromby, Hon. Sec., read the Annual Report of the Council, as follows:—

In making the Annual Report of the proceedings of an institution so recently founded, and so little known as the Bristol Statistical Society, it will not be amiss to touch upon the original design of its establish-

* This enquiry is now completed.

† The district chosen by the executive committee was the county of Rutlandshire, and the enquiry is now nearly finished.

ment, and the general objects it has in view ; especially as, by these means, it will better appear that what has been effected so far is neither useless nor unimportant, and that the Council are not responsible for what has been left unaccomplished.

The original design of the Society was twofold. In the first place, it was considered that in a large mercantile city, like Bristol, there must be various series of facts connected with its commerce and general prosperity, capable, when constantly observed and registered, of shewing, by the simple inspection of tables, the fluctuating vicissitudes of its internal condition and of its trade with the different quarters of the world ; that such documents would not be without their use to the citizen and merchant, and to the legislator might be often of the highest importance, by abiding as durable monuments for his guidance ; that, however difficult it might be to reproduce these statistics belonging to the past, yet, by prospective caution in public and private offices, such tables might be compiled for the future with comparatively little inconvenience and sacrifice ; that this branch of statistics would require no expenditure on the part of the Society, and their only duty would be to give encouragement to the collection of them, to receive them when collected, and to take care that they should be incorporated, at the proper opportunity, with those of the other commercial towns in the kingdom. It was further considered that, however dry and forbidding statistical researches generally are, there will, nevertheless, spring up, every now and then, zealots, as it were, in the pursuit, who are content, not only to keep registers like those alluded to above, but also to gather information from documents rendered difficult of access from their age, or from other causes, and that nothing was so likely to generate and foster such a zeal as the conviction that labours of this kind would be appreciated, and that means were in operation for giving the results of them a permanent existence and value.

This, then, was one branch of usefulness which the Society proposed to itself, but which, it was clear, from the beginning, would have to be left, in a great measure, to the operation of chance. They could not create at will the elements necessary for realizing the benefits they promised themselves. The leisure and taste for such a tedious employment might not readily be met with ; and even where individuals had greater opportunities, and had devoted themselves to the compilation of useful facts, some time must evidently elapse before the Society would be in possession of results in such a form as to be sufficiently interesting for publication. The Council, therefore, cannot be said to be responsible for the progress of this division of statistical labour ; they are able, however, to report that the past year has not been entirely without its fruits, and has exhibited the promise of more. Sub-committees have been formed to superintend the collection of life and medical statistics, and to prosecute an enquiry into the amount of Irish produce imported into Bristol. Returns have already been made of the number of marriages and burials that have taken place in the parish-churches of Bedminster, St. Mary Redcliff, St. Thomas, since the year 1813, and of St. John's since 1823.

The Society are indebted to the coroner, J. B. Grindon, Esq., for particulars of the inquests held in Bristol, from May 1, 1837, to May 1,

1838, being a continuation of a former return for the previous year. By the kindness also of Mr. J. A. Gardner, governor of the gaol, and Mr. Bishop, superintendent of the police, they have been put in possession of the criminal returns from the police office and gaol.

The second object which this Society has in view is of much greater importance, and, involving, as it does the expenditure of the funds of the Society, places the Council in a more responsible position. This is to make such a thorough investigation into the state of the poorer classes of society as to ascertain what means of instruction and improvement they either have or can command for themselves, or for their children, and how far they enjoy those comforts and conveniences which every man must enjoy before he is entitled to the epithet of civilized.

This subject may be presented in two points of view. To speak politically, there are few persons who, since the French revolution, are not aware of the formidable power of Sansculottism—a power overlooked and almost forgotten in periods of tranquillity, but which, nevertheless, exists in its miserable abode, and is ready, at any season of public weakness and agitation, to sally forth to its work of destruction—a power, indeed, so formidable as to give rise to the opinion that many imperfections in the government and laws of a country, and in the mode of administering them, ought to be endured, rather than run the risk of disturbing the slumbers of a monster whose waking hours are spent in such fantastic atrocities. At the same time, it is admitted, that this power is not always the same. Our own country has witnessed mighty revolutions, which have, nevertheless, been unstained by those heart-sickening horrors which signalized the national *bouleversement* in France. The question then arises, what are the influences that increase or diminish the sanguinary character of this occult power, or its capacity to do evil? May not remedies be applied which shall go far to extinguish its existence—which shall therefore place a man's liberties, and his honest title to the social comforts he enjoys, on a much more stable foundation—and which shall render practicable an amelioration of our statutes which the present state of things utterly precludes? In the solution of this question, the facts collected by the Statistical Society will not be without their use.

Or we may put the matter thus: we know, on good authority, that "the poor we have always with us;" and when we will, we may do them good. Now, in a simple state of society, a man may know tolerably well what his duties to the poor are. When the wealthier individual resides in the midst of his own dependents, and when the requisites of civilized life are produced and fabricated within a comparatively limited district, (say a patriarchal household,) the ordinary visitations of Providence are easily known, and as easily mitigated. The orphan, the widow, and the unfortunate, obtain a ready relief at the hands of a benevolent master or richer neighbour. To which may be added, that in a state of society, the reciprocal services of every member of the community produce an interchange of courtesy as well as of information, which subserves the purpose of an intellectual and moral education. A general medium of knowledge is diffused, and a general tone of elevated sentiment obtains. But what shall be said of that artificial and complicated state of things when a nation manufactures for half the world—when the consequence unavoidably is the enormous distance between

the labourer and his virtual and subdivided employer—when a person at the antipodes may feel his garment pleasant at his back, while yet the man to whom some portions of his gratitude is due may be pining with sickness at the distance of 12,000 miles—and when, finally, the lowest orders of society are crowded together in the same locality, and are removed from the benefits which a more immediate intercourse with their superiors would ensure? It is evident, therefore, that the principle of charity to the poor must undergo considerable modification, must indeed assume a new complexion, and shape itself to more comprehensive objects. Against actual starvation it is perfectly true that provision is made by the poor law enactments of the legislature. But is this enough? Are men to be just enabled to live but to be left destitute of everything which ennobles life, and makes it worth living for? Is not something more demanded from those who are stewards of the unrighteous mammon, and ought not more exertions and more sacrifices to be made to raise the mass of our population in the scale of civilization?

All this, however, is not within the province of the Statistical Society. The Society do not take these duties upon themselves. Their only object is to ascertain, as nearly as possible, what the actual exigencies are, and by an accurate exhibition of them, to rouse the community, and eventually the legislature, to take adequate measures to meet them. The Council felt, therefore, that they could not more profitably employ the small funds at their disposal than by continuing the poor enquiry mentioned in the last report. This has consequently been done. Upwards of 4700 families have been visited by their agent in the parishes of Temple, St. Michael, St. James, and St. Philip. The returns thus accumulated are somewhat voluminous. It was the intention of the Council, by their own individual exertions, to reduce them to a tabular form. That task, however, much as they wished to see it executed, has been found to require more time and attention than any of them could, amid other engagements, reasonably afford. A further sum, therefore, will be required to effect this object; and it would be highly desirable, also, if the remaining parts of the city which have not been visited were included, to complete the enquiry. It will be seen, by the treasurer's account, that the funds of the Society are at present more than exhausted; and it is feared that some delay must be experienced before even this advantage can be realized. The Council, therefore, close their report with an earnest appeal to the Society, and through them to the public, for further assistance. This assistance might be rendered by an increased number of subscribed members, or, at all events, by small donations, to be devoted to the purpose above mentioned.

Rawson W. Rawson, Esq., of the Statistical Society of London, has been elected an honorary member of this Society. Arthur Palmer, Esq., Park-row, John Taylor, Esq., George Webb Hall, Esq., W. D. Bushell, Esq., R. Poole King, Esq., John Hare, senior, Esq., John Hare, jun., Esq., Charles Savery, Esq., have been elected ordinary members of this Society.

The following works have been presented to this Society:—A work on the Equitable Assurance Society, by John Addington, Esq.; seven numbers of the Journal of the London Statistical Society, by that So-

ciety ; three copies of Vol. I., Part 1, of the Proceedings of the Liverpool Statistical Society, by that Society.

C. B. Fripp, Esq., Treasurer, read the audited account, by which it appeared that the receipts, including a balance of 11*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* from last year, amounted to 48*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*, and the expenditure to 89*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*, leaving a balance against the Society of 40*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*

Mr. T. Sanders suggested the propriety of obtaining more correct reports of births from the dispensaries. At present not a single double birth was reported, whilst the number of children born was greater than the number of births : again, it appeared that the proportion of female children to males was greater by 30 ; such a return, he believed, was unexampled, as, he believed, everywhere else the number of males was greater than that of females, in the proportion of 1 in 20. He had no doubt that a regular application from the Council to the Dispensary committees would procure for them accurately prepared returns. Dr. Prichard said, the proportions of male and female births often differed according to the circumstances of marriage, &c. ; amongst illegitimate births the proportions varied considerably.

Mr. T. Sanders said, his only object was to procure a correct return, and concluded by moving the adoption of the report, which, having been seconded by W. H. Castle, Esq., was carried unanimously.

Votes of thanks to the Marquis of Lansdowne, President, and Dr. Prichard and J. W. Cowell, Esq., Vice-Presidents, with a request that they would continue their services, having been unanimously adopted, Dr. Carpenter rose to propose a vote of thanks to C. B. Fripp, Esq., Treasurer, accompanied by a similar request. He said that it was to be regretted that that gentleman's labours were not more appreciated ; indeed, he could not account for the apathy of the wealthier members of society with regard to this institution otherwise than by believing that its claims had not been fully brought under their notice. He regarded it as one of the most useful precursors of benevolent exertion. Benevolence had been much injured by the indiscriminate exercise of its bounties, and in the present very complicated relations of society they could only look to the operations of such institutions as theirs for a secure means of improving the social condition. In country places he was aware that it was not so difficult for benevolent individuals to discriminate and to bestow their claims so as to benefit society ; but in large cities and towns statistical enquiries were of the very greatest moment. He had seen the last report of the Statistical Society for Manchester, and he was surprised at the amount of information it afforded—information highly useful for all the purposes of social improvement. It would be worth while for the Council to consider whether some means could not be taken for interesting the wealthier classes ; he was afraid that it was thought by some that the Society was a political one, than which nothing could be further from the truth : it was true that its results might be made subservient to the most important purposes connected with political economy, but with anything like party politics it had nothing to do. He really wished their claims could be brought fully under the notice of their wealthy fellow-citizens. What was their condition ? He was sorry to find that they were without the means of making a tabular statement of the information which had been already collected by their agent. Surely such informa-

tion must be highly interesting and important, not only to the minister of religion and the medical man, but even to the merchant; and, indeed, for all the great purposes of social improvement.

G. W. Hall, Esq. fully concurred in what had fallen from Dr. Carpenter; it was entirely in accordance with sentiments which he had ever held. During the last week the munificent sum of 2000*l.* had been collected for benevolent purposes, and he greatly feared that if it were distributed without a proper precursor—enquiry—injury would be thereby done to society. Mr. Gutch concurred in what had fallen from the preceding speakers. The Chevalier de Mascarenhas considered statistical details of the highest importance, inasmuch as they formed the basis upon which the political economist must rest his efforts for the improvement of mankind.

J. Ham, Esq. thought the suggestion of Dr. Carpenter well worthy of attention, and he, for one, would be happy to assist in canvassing his wealthy fellow-citizens in behalf of the Society. Mr. Gutch suggested that an application should be made to the three benevolent societies, as if, out of their funds, they only contributed 20*l.* each to the Statistical Society, it would be of great benefit to it. He should be happy to press their claims upon many members of the Dolphin Society. Mr. C. B. Fripp considered the suggestion a very reasonable one, and said he would urge it upon the attention of the committee of the Anchor Society. After some further observations, it was resolved, upon the motion of Mr. Gutch, seconded by Mr. C. B. Fripp, "That the chairman be requested to write to the Three Colston's Societies, soliciting donations from their funds."

Thanks were then voted to the other officers of the Society; to the Committee of the Institution for the use of its room, and to the Chairman; and, some statistical returns from the superintendent of police and the governor of the gaol having been read, the members proceeded to ballot for 9 members of the Council in the room of those retiring. The following gentlemen were elected:—Rev. G. N. Barrow, J. M. Gutch, V. F. Hovenden, F. W. Newman, Charles Pinney, Dr. Symonds, William Tothill, G. W. Hall, Thomas Sanders.

STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF LIVERPOOL.

THE Annual Meeting of the Statistical Society of Liverpool took place on the 19th October, Viscount Sandon, M.P. in the chair. The following is a list of the several papers read or laid before the meeting:—1st, Some Remarks on the Effects and Operation of Strikes, by an Artizan; 2nd, A paper on the peculiar Characteristics and Resources of Great Britain, by John Merritt, Esq.; 3rd, the Liverpool Bill of Mortality for the second quarter of the year 1838. 4th, Criminal Returns to Michaelmas, 1838, by the Chaplain and Governor of the Liverpool Borough Gaol; 5th, an Analysis, as far as complete, of the Returns made by the Agent of the Statistical Society of Liverpool, into the Condition of the Poor Population in part of that Town, by W. H. Duncan, Esq. M.D. Hon. Sec.; 6th, Returns shewing the Extent of Emigration, from Liverpool, since the Establishment of a Government Agent at that

Port; 7th, Tabulated Returns from the Northern Hospital, prepared by W. H. Duncan, Esq. M. D. Hon. Sec.; and 8th, Some Returns relating to the Trade between Liverpool and Ireland, from 1833 to 1837, by J. W. Harden, Esq. Hon. Sec.

STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF ULSTER.

THE first Anniversary Meeting of this Society was held on the 1st of November, the Marquis of Donegall, President, in the chair. A number of members, whose names were on the Proposal List, having been admitted, the Society proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year.

Mr. Bruce then read the first report, which he had prepared at the request of a former meeting, "on the Charitable Institutions of Belfast." Mr. Bruce's report was confined to a history of the Charitable Society, from the year 1753 to 1776. The earliest notice of the society was stated to be in the year 1753, when an advertisement appeared with a lottery scheme for raising a sum of money for the double purpose of building a poor-house, and rebuilding or repairing the parish-church, which was in a ruinous condition. Another lottery was held in 1767. When the building was commenced, the committee had a nett amount of 7592*l.* on hand. The prices of building-materials at this time (1771) were as follows: bricks, not laid down, 10*s.* to 12*s.* per thousand; lime, laid down, 11*d.* to 1*s.* per barrel; Cultra sand, 1*s.* 4*d.* per ton; building stones, 2*s.* 2*d.* per ton; other stones, 1*s.* 10*d.* per ton. One remarkable item of expenditure appears at this time on the books; an iron chest, *ordered from Holland*, which cost 8*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* The report also contained several important facts respecting the number of poor relieved at different times, the lease of the water-works obtained by the corporation, and the sums of money expended.

Mr. R. S. M'Adam, who had reported at a former meeting on mechanical power employed in this neighbourhood, reported the progress of the enquiry.

Captain Portlock, R. E., Vice-President, then read to the meeting the report of the Council for the last session, in which, after pointing out the steps which had been taken to form the Society, and the circumstances in which it had originated, the advantage of statistical enquiry to the political economist, and, of course, to the statesman, were urged, and the fact dwelt on of so long a period having elapsed from the time of Bacon, when physical science became in his hands one of induction, till the period still recent, when a similar plan of investigation was applied to legislation.

The different associations which had been formed for the collection of statistical knowledge were then mentioned, as well as the publications of the London Society, particularly the journal established under their auspices, wherein the information collected by separate societies is likely to be brought together.

The report mentioned that the Society had now in operation committees, all of which had made some progress, on the following subjects:—

Education—trade between Great Britain and Ireland—the physical and intellectual condition of the working classes—agriculture—mechanical power in this neighbourhood—steam navigation—charitable insti-

tutions—medical statistics—medical education—classification of crime—moral and intellectual condition of criminals—literary and scientific institutions—inland communication—mines and minerals;—these enquiries being confined to the province of Ulster.

The object of the educational committee, besides enquiring into the general state of instruction, is, as far as possible, to procure an account of all literary societies existing in Ulster, particularly of reading societies in rural districts. To shew the importance of the investigation of the trade to Great Britain, several striking facts were stated, and it was shewn how important it is to ascertain how and in what form Ireland receives a return for the produce of her soil. The report then pointed out the necessity of ascertaining the actual physical and intellectual condition of every nation which is the subject of legislation. It would be as absurd for a physician, however skilful, to pretend to prescribe for a patient, whose disease and its causes he had failed to investigate, as for the lawgiver to make laws for a state of whose condition he is ignorant.

The importance of enquiring into the state of agriculture, and of carrying out the investigations of the other committees, was then pointed out—that on the classification of crime originated with a communication from a member, exhibiting the state of crime in Ireland in a tabular form for each month from July, 1836, to February, 1838. The intention is to classify crime for Ulster on the same plan, another committee, at the same time, enquiring into the state of education amongst the criminals.

The report concluded by directing the attention of the members to the propriety of procuring, if possible, statistical surveys of the different parishes of Ulster, which it was hoped, from the number of members residing in various parts of the province, might be effected. It was recommended to persons pursuing this branch of enquiry to procure the sheets of the Ordnance Survey containing the parish they wished to investigate, which would very much facilitate their operations; even these, by the use of a few simple colours and marginal notes, might in themselves be made very interesting statistical documents.

The report having been received, and the draft of a prospectus of the objects and plan of the Society agreed to, the attention of the Society was directed to a communication received from Sir R. A. Ferguson, Bart. M.P., one of the honorary Vice-Presidents, conveying to the Society the result of his enquiries into the Grand Jury assessments of the counties of Tyrone and Derry, as exhibited in a tabular form. The object of these enquiries is to render more palpable to all connected with county affairs, the real extent of the tax called the county cess, by removing it from the obscurity of gross sums to the more tangible shape, for comparison of poundage on property. When viewed in this way, it appears that there are great discrepancies in the several baronies, and, that in some of those of Tyrone the cess has mounted up to the extraordinary rate of more than 4s. in the pound on the Government valuation.

Sir R. A. Ferguson, it was stated, is also preparing a classification of the total poundage, under distinct heads, as follows:—*Communication*—Roads, Bridges, &c. *Benevolence*—Dispensaries, Hospitals, Infirmaries, &c. *Instruction*—Schools. *Justice*.—Jails, Police, Officers. *Finance*—Collectors, Treasurer, &c. By which arrangement the cause as well as the extent of increase of county cess will be clearly shewn.